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Attorney Docket No. 24857

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MUELLER, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1774

Serial No.: 10/014,796

Examiner: Jill M. Gray

Filed: December 14, 2001

For: **SUTURE MATERIAL FOR SURGERY, PROCESS FOR ITS
PRODUCTION AND THE USE THEREOF**

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the final Office Action dated October 7, 2004. The three month shortened statutory period for response is set to expire on January 7, 2005. Accordingly, a one-month extension of time was filed on January 26, 2005, a copy of which is attached hereto, and a second request for a one-month extension of time is filed herewith, thereby extending the deadline for response to March 7, 2005. Therefore, this response is timely filed.

Applicants greatly thank Examiner Gray for the interview of February 22, 2005 and the suggestions she provided regarding the pending claims.

In view of the following amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider

S/N 10/014,796

Page 2

and withdraw the outstanding rejections and allow all claims in the pending application.

Please amend the identified application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS: